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**COMMEMORATION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

Note by the secretariat

1. This item has been included in the provisional agenda of the forty-ninth session of the Commission in response to General Assembly decision 46/472 and the subsequent work of the Preparatory Committee for the Commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations. The fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations will provide an opportunity to highlight the activities of the Organization, its principal organs and their subsidiary bodies in a wide range of areas including peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance, human rights and economic and social development.

2. The Economic Commission for Europe along with other programmes of the United Nations has been invited by the Preparatory Committee to contribute to the preparations for and the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary, highlighting its role in Europe in its 48 years of existence. In considering its contribution to this event the Commission may wish to select topics which represent the Commission's contribution to the world community, as well as issues which reflect both its past and future contribution to the countries of the region.

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3. To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations the Commission may therefore wish to invite the Executive Secretary to prepare a compendium of the contributions which the ECE has made to the global programmes of the UN during its 48 years of existence. This would cover the ECE outreach programmes of benefit to the countries of other regions and the international community as a whole, such as EDIFACT, norms and standards, the transport of dangerous goods, energy efficiency, sustainable development, population trends and migration. It would also relate to the ECE contribution to global activities of the Organization, including world conferences, international years and decades.

4. The Commission may also wish to convene in special session in October 1995 to commemorate at the same time as the rest of the Organization the fiftieth anniversary of the UN. At that time the Commission could adopt a decision or a declaration to be addressed to the President of the General Assembly reaffirming its commitment to the aims and principles of the Charter of the UN and its support for the global programmes of the Organization.

5. The Commission may also wish to invite the secretariat, in close cooperation with the United Nations Office at Geneva, to prepare an exhibition highlighting the practical impact of ECE work on the daily life of the population in Europe to be integrated into a larger presentation organized by the United Nations Office at Geneva. The secretariat should also cooperate with the national focal points of ECE member States in this presentation.

6. Noting that the ECE fiftieth anniversary will be in 1997, the Commission may decide to request the secretariat to initiate preparations for the anniversary in 1997, including a publication intended to reflect its main contributions to the wellbeing of the peoples and governments of the region. Such a publication could be prepared by a team of young people serving as interns in the ECE and retired staff of the ECE who would jointly represent two different readings of the history and the future of the ECE. Senior government officials would also be invited to contribute statements and articles to the publication.

7. On the occasion of the Commission's annual session in 1997 the round table could be devoted to a discussion of the anniversary of the ECE from both a retrospective and prospective point of view.

8. The secretariat has already requested the UN Postal Administration to begin preparations for a UN stamp in 1997 to commemorate the Commission's fiftieth anniversary. In 1990 the UN issued a similar stamp for the forty-fifth anniversary of the UN reflecting ECE's work in the field of environment.